



March 19, 2008

RE: USDA/AMS proposal to add a 5% shatter allowance

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in support of an industry wide effort led by the California Grape & Tree Fruit League to revise tolerances to include an additional 5 percent allowance for shattered berries in consumer size container en route or destination.

Studies done by the California Table Grape Commission, provided evidence that shatter ranging from 3 percent all the way up to 20 percent resulted in very little concern for the consumer.

We are shipping grapes all the way from the west coast to the east coast and can be the equivalent of almost a week transit time. This substantial amount of transit and handling can sometimes cause the berries to detach. This does not necessarily detract from the products value and if the grapes are in bags or clamshells and still saleable, then product should be remitted for according.

While table grape shatter is a real occurrence, adoption of an additional five percent will only further resemble market conditions which allow for product use without compromising quality. Good healthy berries that are shattered are merchandisable. By definition and grading standard shatter represents grapes that are not attached to the stem. This new ruling would only apply to grapes in a consumer package, such as bags or clamshells. The proposed standard change only affects tolerance at destination and still recognizes factors of damage or decay. Product would be scored accordingly upon arrival.

For these reasons I ask for the prompt adoption of the current shatter proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Harold McClarty", written over a horizontal line.

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